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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/087,092	03/01/2002	Anthony C. Bonora	34741-774	1981

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EXAMINER

FOX, CHARLES A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3652	

DATE MAILED: 08/26/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/087,092

Applicant(s)

BONORA ET AL.

Examiner

Charles A. Fox

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 May 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4,8-10,13 and 15-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4,8-10,13 and 15-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 01 October 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

The indicated allowability of claim 2 now rewritten into claim 1 is withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s) to Bonora et al. Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow. As the rejections are on subject matter previously allowed this action is non-final.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1,4,8-10, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bacchi et al. in view of Bonora et al. Regarding claims 1 and 8 Bacchi et al. US 6,281,516 teaches an apparatus adapted to open one or more cassettes for substrates, the apparatus comprising:

a frame (12) including:

a first and a second elongated strut (not numbered);

a structure secured to said the bottom of said struts, said structure providing exterior mounting locations for a plate (14) as well as interior mounting locations for a handling device (400);

a port door storage area located between the two mounting locations (see figure 2);

a container advance assembly (16) having a support plate (24) adapted to receive a cassette (18);

an isolation plate (14) removably mounted to said struts;

a port door (76) movable between a first position and a second position and being adapted to open a mechanical door on said cassette. Bacchi et al. does not positively teach placing at least one guide for the port door in one of the struts. Bonora et al. US 6,135,698 teaches a universal interface for substrate process devices, comprising:

at least two vertical struts (108);

a port door (104) that is movable between the struts;

guide ways (138) on said struts for maintaining the alignment of said port door during movement thereof. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of invention to provide the port door in the device taught by Bacchi et al. with a guide way in a support frame as taught by Bonora et al. in order to maintain alignment between the port door and port plate as a cassette is opened and closed, thereby assuring the fit between the cassette and its door.

Regarding claim 4 Bacchi et al. also disclose that the plates (14) are discretely removable from said frame.

In regards to claim 9 Bacchi et al. also disclose that the mechanism for guiding the port door is secured to the struts via plate (14).

Regarding claim 10 Bacchi et al. also disclose the container advance assembly is adapted to move plate (24) in a substantially horizontal direction between a forward and a rearward position.

Claims 13, and 15-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bacchi et al. in view of Babbs et al. Regarding claims 13, 15 and 16 Bacchi et al. teaches an apparatus for opening two cassettes for substrates, the apparatus comprising:

- a frame (12) including:

- a first and a second elongated strut (not numbered);

- a structure secured to said the bottom of said struts, said structure providing exterior mounting locations for a plate (14) as well as interior mounting locations for a handling device (400);

- a port door storage area located between the two mounting locations (see figure 2);

- a container advance assembly (16) having a support plate (24) adapted to receive a cassette (18);

- a first and a second isolation plate (14) removably mounted to said struts;

- a first and a second port door (76) movable between a first position and a second position and being adapted to open a mechanical door on said cassette;

- two container advance assemblies adapted to move a plate (24) in a substantially horizontal direction between a forward and a rearward position;

- wherein said port door opening devices are secured to the vertical struts via plates (14) which may be removed as a discreet element. Bacchi et al. do not teach placing a third strut in their device. Babbs et al. US 6,520,727 teaches a front end frame (100) for a wafer process machine comprising:

a plurality of vertical struts (not numbered);

plates mounted between said struts;

wherein said plates may have a window (154) therein;

wherein a strut is placed on either side of the plates sealing the front of said device. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of invention to provide the device taught by Bacchi et al. with vertical struts between each port as taught by Babbs et al. in order to stiffen the frame between the ports thereby making alignment between the ports more precise as the device is operated.

Regarding claim 17 Bacchi et al. further disclose a substrate handling device (20) for accessing substrates through said port door opening. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of invention to provide a substrate handling device for each port on the system in order to move any substrates from a cassette at any of the ports.

Response to Amendment

The amendments filed on May 27, 2005 have been entered into the record.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1,4,8-10 and 17 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Applicant's arguments filed May 27,2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. In regards to the arguments that Bacchi et al. do not teach a storage area for a port door applicant is directed to Figure 2 in the Bacchi et al. reference. In that figure a port door is clearly shown as being stored between a pair of frames with a

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front mounting surface and a rear mounting surface. There is no positive mention in the claims that the port door be segregated from a process chamber. As such the rejections stand as before.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Charles A. Fox whose telephone number is 571-272-6923. The examiner can normally be reached between 7:00-4:00 Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eileen D. Lillis can be reached at 571-272-6928. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-2738300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

CAF
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8-22-05


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